

HOUSE RESOLUTION 346

By Stewart

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Mikayla Smith of
Teens4Equality for organizing a peaceful protest
on June 4, 2020.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this legislative body should salute those young citizens who, through their remarkable efforts, have distinguished themselves as emerging community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable person is Mikayla Smith, one of the leaders of Teens4Equality and an organizer of a peaceful protest held in Nashville on June 4, 2020, to push for social change in her city, her nation, and her world; and

WHEREAS, Teens4Equality is led by Jade Fuller, Nya Collins, Zee Thomas, Kennedy Green, Emma Rose Smith, and Mikayla Smith, who are all between fourteen and sixteen years of age; the organization partnered with Black Lives Matter to plan the June 4, 2020, rally in Nashville; and

WHEREAS, these six remarkable young women led the region's largest protest against racism and police brutality in recent memory, with an estimated 10,000 individuals in attendance; and

WHEREAS, the peaceful protest traveled around the downtown area, starting from Bicentennial Mall and progressing through downtown Nashville as they marched down Lower Broadway, across Legislative Plaza, and by the State Capitol on their return to Bicentennial Mall; and

WHEREAS, whether in the brutal heat or the pouring rain, Mikayla Smith and the protestors who joined her had a simple message: "Not one more." and "No justice, no peace."; and

WHEREAS, the members of Teens4Equality stated, "As teens, we are tired of waking up and seeing another innocent person being slain in broad daylight. As teens, we are desensitized to death because we see videos of Black people being killed in broad daylight circulating on social media platforms. As teens, we feel like we cannot make a difference in this world, but we must."; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Smith and the other organizers of Teens4Equality have set a positive example for our communities, our State, and our nation of peaceful protest while calling out racism; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Smith has shown young people they can have a big political impact and reminded everyone of the importance of standing up against oppression and racism; and

WHEREAS, the future of the State of Tennessee is bright, thanks to youth such as Mikayla Smith; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Smith epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, the members of this legislative body find it appropriate to acknowledge and applaud Mikayla Smith for her many contributions to the State of Tennessee and its citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor and commend Mikayla Smith of Teens4Equality for her exemplary efforts in organizing a peaceful protest in Nashville on June 4, 2020, and extend to her our best wishes for every future success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.